The Ultimate AP® US History Unit 3 Cheat Sheet

3.1–3.2 Seven Years' War (1754–1763)

Causes

Big picture: British-French rivalry for N. America (+ global empire). Spark: competing claims in the **Ohio River Valley**.
George Washington (1754): VA militia clash w/ French at Fort Necessity → war begins in America ("French and Indian War"); Washington surrenders the small fort.
Albany Plan of Union (1754, Franklin): proposed colonial union for defense. Rejected by colonies & Crown → shows weak unity. "Join, or Die" cartoon (Franklin's snake).
Native alliances: most tribes sided w/ French (traders, few settlers). **Iroquois** leaned British (Covenant Chain).
Turning point: under **William Pitt**, Britain pours in money + troops → victories at Louisbourg, Quebec (1759).

Outcome: Treaty of Paris (1763)

Britain wins: gains Canada + land east of Mississippi; Spain gets Louisiana; France loses mainland N. America.

Effect	Result
Huge war debt	Britain taxes colonies
Salutary neglect ends	Tighter control, enforcement
French gone	Colonists need Britain less
Pontiac's Rebellion (1763)	Native resistance in Ohio V.
Proclamation of 1763	No settling west of Appalachians
Colonial militia exp.	Military + leadership training

Proclamation of 1763: meant to prevent Native wars; colonists saw it as blocking land they fought for → deep resentment, often ignored by settlers.
Salutary neglect (pre-1763): loose enforcement of trade laws → colonists used to self-government.

✓ Causation essay: 1763 is THE turning point — war debt + new policies → taxation crisis → Revolution.

⚠ The war began in America (1754) but became global (1756). Don't call it the Revolution's opening battle.

3.3 Taxation Without Representation

British Acts & Colonial Responses

Act	Year	Response
Sugar Act	1764	Petitions, smuggling
Stamp Act	1765	Stamp Act Cong., boycott
Quartering Act	1765	NY refuses
Declaratory Act	1766	Stamp repealed; Parl. rule
Townshend Acts	1767	Nonimportation, Dickinson
Boston Massacre	1770	Propaganda (Revere)
Tea Act	1773	Boston Tea Party
Coercive Acts	1774	1st Continental Congress

Protest & Political Arguments

Stamp Act: first *direct* (internal) tax on paper goods → broadest protest. **Sons of Liberty** intimidated collectors.
Stamp Act Congress (1765): 9 colonies; "no taxation w/o representation." First united colonial action.
Virtual representation (British view): Parliament represents all subjects. Colonists: only their own elected assemblies can tax them (actual, direct representation).
Boycotts / nonimportation: women made homespun (Daughters of Liberty) → women's political role.
Committees of Correspondence (Sam Adams): spread news + coordinate resistance across colonies.
Tea Act (1773): cheaper tea but East India Co. monopoly → colonists saw a trick to accept Parliament's tax.
Coercive (Intolerable) Acts (1774): closed Boston port, limited MA self-gov't → other colonies rally to MA.
1st Continental Congress (1774): boycott British goods, petition king; still sought rights as Englishmen.

⚠ Colonists didn't want seats in Parliament — they rejected Parliament's right to tax them at all (internal taxes).

✓ Pattern to cite: British act → colonial protest → repeal or harsher act → escalation (1764–75), ending in war.

3.4–3.5 Ideas & the American Revolution

Philosophical Foundations

Enlightenment: reason, natural rights. **John Locke**: life, liberty, property; **social contract** — people can overthrow a gov't that violates their natural rights (Two Treatises).
Republicanism: gov't by elected reps; civic virtue. **Common Sense** (Paine, Jan. 1776): plain-language case for independence + against monarchy; sold ~100,000+.
Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776, Jefferson): natural rights, grievances vs. King George III, right of revolution; aimed at world opinion too.

Key Events

Event	Year	Significance
Lexington & Concord	1775	War begins
2nd Cont. Congress	1775	Army, Washington
Olive Branch Pet.	1775	King rejects peace
Saratoga	1777	Turning pt → France
Valley Forge	1777–78	Hardship, drilling
Yorktown	1781	British surrender
Treaty of Paris	1783	Indep.; to Mississippi

Why the Patriots Won

French alliance (1778): money, navy, troops (key at Yorktown). **Washington's leadership**, home-field advantage, British overconfidence + long supply lines.
Loyalists (~20%): officials, Anglicans, some merchants. Many fled to Canada & Britain. **Dunmore's Proclamation** (1775): freedom for enslaved who fought for Britain.
Native Americans: most backed Britain to stop western expansion. **Women**: ran farms, camp followers, some fought.
African Americans: ~5,000 served in Continental Army; more joined British for promised freedom.

⚠ Independence wasn't the goal until 1776. Most colonists sought rights as Englishmen until Common Sense + war (and the king's rejection) shifted opinion.

3.6 The Influence of Revolutionary Ideals

Who Gained? Who Didn't?

Group	Impact of Revolution
White men (property)	Voting, state gov'ts
Women	Republican motherhood
Enslaved Africans	North: gradual abolition
Free Black people	Some rights, still limited
Native Americans	Lost land + British ally

Republican motherhood: women's role = raise virtuous citizens → more education for women, but no vote.
Abigail Adams: "Remember the ladies" (1776) — asked John for women's rights; ignored by Congress & the founders.
Women's education ↑: female academies; **Judith Sargent Murray** argued for women's intellectual equality.
Slavery: northern states pass **gradual emancipation** (PA 1780). South keeps slavery; manumission ↑ briefly in VA.
Free Black activism: petitions for freedom (e.g., in MA); **Phillis Wheatley**, Prince Hall challenge slavery in writing.

New State Governments

State constitutions: written, w/ bills of rights; strong legislatures, weak governors (fear of tyranny).
Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom (1786, Jefferson): separation of church + state; model for 1st Amendment.
Property requirements for voting loosened in some states, but most states still limited voting to property-owning white men (NJ briefly let some propertied women vote, 1776–1807).

Global Influence

Ideals spread: inspired **French Revolution** (1789) + **Haitian Revolution** (1791–1804, enslaved revolt → independent Haiti). Latin American revolutions follow later (1810s).

⚠ "All men are created equal" ≠ equality in 1776. Essays reward showing the gap between ideals and reality.

✓ Continuity & change: ideals changed (rights talk) but structures continued (slavery, gender roles).

3.7 The Articles of Confederation

Structure (1781–1789)

Articles of Confederation: first national gov't. One-house Congress, 1 vote/state. No executive, no national courts. Fear of strong central power after fighting a king.

Weakness	Problem it caused
Couldn't tax	Debt unpaid, no revenue
No army	Couldn't stop rebellions
No interstate commerce	States' trade wars
9/13 to pass laws	Little got done
Unanimous to amend	Couldn't fix itself
No national currency	Inflation, confusion

Achievements

Won the war, negotiated Treaty of Paris (1783).
Land Ordinance of 1785: surveyed western land in townships; one section for public schools.
Northwest Ordinance (1787): process for territories → states (60,000 people); **banned slavery** north of Ohio River; promised fair treatment of Natives (often ignored).

Shays' Rebellion (1786–87)

Shays' Rebellion: indebted western MA farmers (vets) resist foreclosures + taxes. National gov't can't respond; state militia (privately funded by merchants) ends it.
Impact: convinced elites the Articles were too weak → **Annapolis Convention** (1786, only 5 states) → Constitutional Convention (1787) in Philadelphia, May–Sept.
Foreign problems: Britain kept western forts; Spain closed New Orleans to U.S. trade; Barbary pirates seized ships.

⚠ Don't call the Articles a total failure: the Northwest Ordinance was a lasting success (statehood model + slavery ban north of the Ohio River, 1787).

✓ Causation: Shays' Rebellion → fear of disorder → push for a stronger national government (1787).

3.8–3.9 Constitution & Ratification

Constitutional Convention (1787)

Philadelphia: 55 delegates; Washington presides, **Madison** = "Father of the Constitution." Goal: revise Articles → wrote a whole new plan in secret over a hot summer.

Compromise	Issue	Solution
Great (CT)	Representation	House pop.; Senate equal
Three-Fifths	Counting enslaved	3/5 for seats + tax
Slave trade	Import ban?	Allowed until 1808
Electoral College	Pick president	Electors, not people

Virginia Plan (large states: rep. by pop.) vs. **New Jersey Plan** (small states: equal) → Great Compromise.
Fugitive slave clause: escaped enslaved people must be returned. Constitution protects slavery w/o naming it.
Key principles: **federalism** (power shared nat'l/state), **separation of powers**, **checks and balances**, popular sovereignty, limited gov't, republicanism.

Ratification Debate

	Federalists	Anti-Federalists
Leaders	Madison, Hamilton	Henry, G. Mason
Wanted	Strong nat'l gov't	State power, rights
Base	Merchants, cities	Farmers, backcountry
Writing	Federalist Papers	Letters of Brutus

Bill of Rights (1791): first 10 amendments; promised to win Anti-Federalist support (MA, VA, NY ratification).
Ratification: 9 of 13 states needed; DE first (1787); NH 9th (1788); VA + NY close fights; RI last (1790).

⚠ Anti-Federalists lost ratification but won the Bill of Rights — mention this in any ratification essay.

3.10 Shaping a New Republic (1789–1800)

Washington (1789–1797)

Precedents: cabinet, 2 terms, "Mr. President." **Hamilton's financial plan**: assume state debts, national bank, tariffs → strong credit; opposed by Jefferson + Madison (South).
Bank debate: Hamilton = **loose construction** (implied powers); Jefferson = **strict construction**.
Whiskey Rebellion (1794): PA farmers resist excise tax; Washington sends ~13,000 troops → federal power works (vs. Shays'); the revolt melts away w/o a battle.
Foreign policy: **Neutrality Proclamation** (1793) in French-British war. **Jay's Treaty** (1794, w/ Britain, unpopular).
Pinckney's Treaty (1795, Spain: Mississippi + New Orleans access, right of deposit). All keep the U.S. out of war.
West: Battle of **Fallen Timbers** (1794) → **Treaty of Greenville** (1795): Natives cede most of Ohio to the U.S.
Citizen Genêt (1793): French envoy recruits Americans → tests neutrality. **Haitian Revolution** stirs fears of slave revolt.
Farewell Address (1796): avoid permanent alliances + political parties (factions); guides U.S. policy.

First Party System

	Federalists	Dem.-Republicans
Leaders	Hamilton, Adams	Jefferson, Madison
Gov't	Strong national	Limited, states
Economy	Commerce, bank	Farming
Foreign	Pro-Britain	Pro-France

John Adams (1797–1801)

XYZ Affair (1797) → **Quasi-War** w/ France. **Alien & Sedition Acts** (1798): limit immigrants + criticism of gov't. Answer: **Virginia & Kentucky Resolutions** (states can judge laws).
Election of 1800: Jefferson wins → peaceful transfer between parties ("Revolution of 1800").

✓ Comparison: Shays' (Articles failed) vs. Whiskey Rebellion (Constitution worked, federal power).

3.11–3.13 Identity, Movement & Exam Skills

American Identity

National culture: Noah Webster's American dictionary + spelling; art/literature celebrating the Revolution + republican virtue (e.g., John Trumbull's history paintings).
Regional differences persist: North (commerce, gradual emancipation) vs. South (plantation slavery).

Movement in the Early Republic

Westward migration over Appalachians (KY, TN, OH) → conflict w/ Natives + Spain. **Northwest Indian War** (1785–95).
Cotton gin (Whitney, 1793): makes short-staple cotton profitable → slavery expands South + West.
Immigration + debates over citizenship (Naturalization Acts); free Black communities grow in Northern cities.

Continuity & Change (3.13)

Changed	Continued
Colony → republic	Slavery (protected)
Monarchy → elected gov't	Elite white male power
Articles → Constitution	Native land loss
Rise of parties	Ties to Brit. trade

Exam Format

Section I (May 2027): 55 MCQ (55 min, 40%) + 3 SAQ (40 min, 20%). **Section II**: DBQ (60 min, 25%) + LEQ (40 min, 15%). Period 3 = 10–17% of the exam score.
DBQ (7 pts): thesis, contextualization, 4+ docs as evidence, outside evidence, sourcing (HIPP) on 2 docs, complexity.
LEQ (6 pts): thesis, context, 2 specific evidence, reasoning (causation, comparison, CCOT), complexity.

⚠ Contextualization ≠ one sentence of background. Describe the broader context and connect it to your argument (3–4 specific sentences, not vague).

✓ Strong Period 3 themes: ideals vs. reality, federal vs. state power, effects of 1763 on the colonies.